

# REPORT

**DATE:** October 4, 2007

**TO:** Energy and Environment Committee

**FROM:** Jessica Kirchner, Senior Regional Planner, (213)236-1983, [kirchner@scag.ca.gov](mailto:kirchner@scag.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Proposed segment selection for 2008 PEIR health risk assessment

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:**



**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the approach for the RTP RCP PEIR health risk assessment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Air quality is an issue of paramount importance in the SCAG region. Statistics from the California Air Resources Board attribute 5,000 premature deaths per year to the poor air quality in the region. Furthermore, SCAG received several comments on the Notice of Preparation for the PEIR relating to the overall quality of the air in the region and specific questions over the health effects of transportation and transportation projects. In response to these concerns, SCAG is preparing a health risk assessment (HRA) as part of the RTP RCP PEIR.

The purpose of a health risk assessment is to help scientists and policymakers identify serious health hazards and determine realistic goals for reducing exposure to toxics, thereby minimizing or eliminating the threat to the general public. In California, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) has the primary responsibility for developing procedures and practices for performing health risk assessments.

As part of the scope of work for the PEIR, SCAG retained a consulting firm, Sierra Research, who is qualified to prepare a HRA, in accordance with the OEHHA standards. This HRA would evaluate health risks associated with selected segments throughout the region. The HRA will include operational segments and will provide a general description of the risk associated with each of the sample segments. Segments would be selected based on highest traffic volume and a sampling from each of the counties would be included. To provide a broad picture of the health impacts in the region small and medium volume segments would be selected for informational purposes.

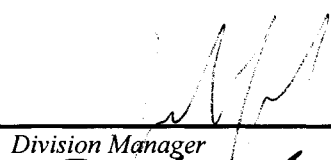
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost of preparing a HRA for the PEIR is included in the FY 07/08 budget WBS 07-020.SCGC1.

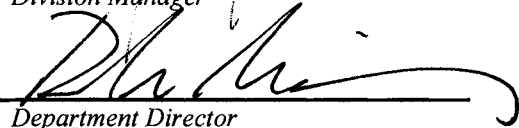
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Reviewed by:

  
Division Manager

Reviewed by:

  
Department Director

Reviewed by:

  
Chief Financial Officer